

*Description of a new species of Anser.* By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

*Anser nigricans*, Black-bellied Goose. *Specific character* :—A large white patch on the middle of the neck in front, and extending on the sides ; belly brownish black ; bill higher than broad at the base.

Bill black ; legs and toes black, tinged with flesh-colour ; iris dark hazel ; head black, tinged with brownish rufous adjoining the bill, with a dirty white line under the eye ; neck and fore-part of the breast black ; a large white patch on the centre of the neck intermixed with black, except at the lower part, where it forms a distinct band of pure white ; it is nearly two inches in width, rounding on each side of the neck and almost meeting behind ; belly brownish black ; sides brownish ash, margined with white ; back dark brown, each feather margined with a lighter shade ; rump-feathers black ; axillars and lower wing-coverts grayish black ; tail black, consisting of sixteen feathers ; upper and lower tail-coverts white ; wings black, extending half an inch beyond the tail ; second primary one line longer than the first ; third half an inch shorter ; vent white.

Length  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches ; alar extent 44 ; bill a little higher than broad ; measures along the ridge  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inch ; from gape  $1\frac{3}{8}$  ; lower mandible  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ; tarsus  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ; middle toe 2 ; outer  $1\frac{7}{8}$  ; inner  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ; weight three pounds.

I have taken the above description and figure from an adult female procured at Egg Harbour, N. J., in January. Since then two others have been obtained at the same place, one of which I have in my possession. On dissection it proves to be a male. It agrees in markings with the female, but is evidently a younger bird, being somewhat lighter in the colour of its plumage. From this I infer they become darker by age. It is a little larger than the female, the bill being also stouter, measuring  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch high at the base. When on a shooting excursion some years since, at Egg Harbour, I noticed a bird flying at some distance from us, which our gunner said was a Black Brant. This was the first intimation I had of such a bird. Upon further inquiry of him, he informed me he had seen them occasionally, but they were not common. I have learned from Mr. Philip Brasher, who has passed much time at that place, that speaking to the gunners about them, they said they were well-known there by the name of Black Brant, and one of them mentioned that he once saw a flock of five or six together.

From these facts it appears to be known to gunners, but has heretofore escaped the notice of ornithologists. With all my inquiries I have not been able to procure a specimen before this winter. I think it a good and well-marked species.—*Silliman's Journal for May 1847.*

*Account of a Black and White Mottled Swan, on the water in the demesne of the Earl of Shannon, Castle Martyr, County Cork.* By MAURICE GLENCON, Gamekeeper to the Earl of Shannon.

In the year 1843 a male black swan paired with a white female swan ; she laid six eggs, and hatched four cygnets. Before they got